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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1956

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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REPORT

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N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

SANITARY AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. HUNT, J.P.
(*Chairman of the Council*).
Chairman—Mrs. A. M. WILLIAMS.
Councillor S. G. BAKER.
Councillor W. H. BATES.
Councillor A. J. BROOMFIELD.
Councillor Mrs. E. F. CAVE, J.P.
Councillor P. W. GLADWIN.
Councillor S. HARRIS.
Councillor W. HUNT, J.P.
Councillor W. E. PHILLIPS.
Councillor A. B. STEER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1956, which follows the main lines of its predecessors.

There was a small but none the less welcome rise in the population from 13990 to 14330 and in the Birth Rate from 12.29 to 12.56. There was a fall in the Death Rate from 9.93 to 9.28. On this Death Rate I would like to make this topical comment—out of 18 total deaths from Cancer amongst Males, 6 were due to Cancer of the Lung. The Government has recently drawn attention to the connection between Cancer of the Lung and excessive cigarette smoking and in a report of the Medical Research Council it was pointed out that the death rate from this form of Cancer has doubled amongst men during the past 10 years and to-day 1 in 18 deaths in Males is caused by this disease. There were only 2 Infant Deaths, no Maternal Deaths and no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

Infectious Disease.

There was an increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases and a very noticeable decrease in Measles. It is interesting although puzzling to contrast the incidence of Measles in Portslade with Hove. In the former it followed the usual pre-war pattern of an outbreak every other year—the latter showed almost as many cases in 1956 as in 1955. There was only 1 case of Food Poisoning recorded and neither the source of the infection nor the organism concerned were discovered.

Up to November there had been no cases of Poliomyelitis but between then and the end of the year there was an unexpected and unseasonal outbreak of 10 cases. All were in young children, the oldest being 9 years and the youngest 7 months, and all came from the same area—Mile Oak. In view of this and the age group affected it was not surprising that 5 of them attended St. Nicolas Infants' School. In 3 instances 2 members

of the family were affected but in only one of these did it appear that there had been a direct transfer of infection. 9 of the 10 cases suffered some degree of paralysis and 2 subsequently had to be transferred to an Orthopaedic Hospital for further after-treatment. Although all the cases came from the same small area there was no evidence of very close contact between the families and although children from 5 of them attended the same school, with one exception they were in different classes. In urban areas it is not considered necessary to close schools since by so doing a vital channel of information about suspects is cut off and all too frequently it means that the mixing is done out of rather than in school. There was, therefore, a focus of infection in that area and if it had been possible to make a house to house investigation it is likely that some missed cases would have been brought to light which might have provided the link between the definite ones. As it was, enquiries were made of close contacts, daily visits paid to the school, tonsil and adenoid operations suspended and a circular letter sent to every parent explaining the position and setting out the early symptoms of the disease.

Tuberculosis.

12 cases were added to the register and 15 removed, leaving a total of 118 of both types. There were no deaths. For one week in November the Mass Radiography Unit was stationed at East Hill House and the table reproduced below shows the results of their stay. The important point is that 3 new unsuspected cases were discovered and referred for treatment.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Number of Persons X-rayed ..	758	809	1567
Number recalled for Large Films	69	42	111
Number found to have Abnormal Large Films	28	22	50
Analysis of Abnormal Large Films.			
(a) Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
(b) Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	10	20
(c) Malignant Disease ..	—	—	—
(d) Other Diseases of Lung or Pleura	8	6	14
(e) Cardio-Vascular Diseases ..	2	3	5
Number (per 1,000 persons X-rayed) with Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.98.		

Immunisation.

In January 1956 the Ministry of Health invited parents of children born in the years 1947-54 to register for vaccination against poliomyelitis and by Easter when the lists were closed some 1,800 consent forms were received from Hove and Portslade. Owing to shortage of supplies of the new British vaccine—a modification of the American one—only about 10% could be vaccinated by the end of June when further injections were postponed until the end of the year in order to avoid those months during which poliomyelitis is normally prevalent. In this area there were no reactions and no cases of Poliomyelitis developed in any of the vaccinated children. The Medical Research Council subsequently analysed the reactions for the whole country and found the same results. They calculated without being dogmatic, because the figures are small, that a vaccinated child stands a 5 to 1 better chance of avoiding paralytic Poliomyelitis than an unvaccinated one.

It might have been thought that this new offer against a disease which is very much in the public mind might have reacted unfavourably on the requests for immunisation against the older diseases, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, to which has now been added Tetanus, but such was not the case as the table on page (16) shows.

Sanitary Circumstances.

On pages (7) to (9) the Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald, sets out the details of his normal work in all its aspects and variety. Two new responsibilities have now been laid upon him—the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations which involved a great deal of extra work and the preparation of the detailed lists of defects in the houses represented by me as unfit for human habitation and subject to be dealt with as Clearance Areas. The table on page (12) sets out in detail the progress of the Slum Clearance Schemes—houses demolished and tenants rehoused.

I should like once again to record my thanks to the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Tozer, the Surveyor, Mr. Rudgley, and especially the Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald, and for the support I have once again received from the Sanitary and Housing Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : 14,330.

Births :		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	94	74	168
Illegitimate	..	6	6	12

Birth Rate : 12.56 (Standard).
13.94 (Corrected).

Still Births : 3

1. Rate per 1,000 Births : 16.66.

Deaths :

Male .. 71
Female .. 62. Total : 133.

Death Rate : 9.28 (Standard).
9.56 (Corrected).

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth : Nil.

Death of infants under 1 year of age : 2.
Rate per 1,000 births : 11.11.

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	1
Pneumonia ..	..	3
Cancer (all forms)	..	29

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 12 houses served by cesspools, of these cesspools 8 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 4 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. Two houses with cesspool drainage were closed during the year.

In addition there are 10 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR. The Public Health Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects ..	403
Number of inspections made for the purpose.	816
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	307
Number of inspections made for that purpose	445
Number of complaints received.	181
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act) ..	88
Statutory Notices served	6
Houses found dirty or verminous ..	10
Houses with insufficient refuse bin ..	15

Defective and Choked Drains	134
Defective Closets	42
Defective Sinks	5
Defective Roofs and Gutters	57
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings ..	124
Defective Floors	37
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc. ..	158

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The destruction of rats and mice has been successfully continued throughout the year, both in surface properties and in the Council's sewers.

During the year 134 infestations were dealt with on surface properties and two sewer treatments carried out.

The treatment is free to private properties but a small charge is made for business premises.

Eradication of Vermin.

During the year 10 houses were found to be in a dirty or verminous condition and of these, 7 were disinfested by spraying with insecticides.

This work has been carried out by the Council and the cost of materials has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Council Houses and Flats	675
Old Peoples Bungalows	18

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year* :

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	403
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	816
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	46
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	68
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	50
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	66

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	52

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There is only 1 Farm in the District which is supplying Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year there were 27 Dealers' Licences and 7 Supplementary Licences issued for the sale of designated Milk in this District.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

There is 1 Factory registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 53 Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

There are 6 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, pickled or preserved food.

There were 8 inspections of registered premises during the year.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The inspection of food premises under the abovementioned Regulations was proceeded with during the year, and in 7 shops there were found to be offences against the Regulations, and the Occupiers were notified accordingly.

One application for a Certificate of Exemption in connection with the provision of a suitable water supply and hand washing facilities was received and refused by the Council, and in consequence the Occupier vacated the shop.

Meat and Food Inspection.

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and most of the home killed meat is brought in from Brighton Abattoir.

No butchers meat was condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

1lb. of Cheese.
1 Loaf of Bread.
4 doz. Escallops.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes o provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	30	8	*Nil*	*Nil*
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	52	*Nil*	*Nil*
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	2	2	*Nil*	*Nil*
Total ..	92	62	*Nil*	*Nil*

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Premises dealt with during Year 1956.

Nos. 1 to 12 Belgrave Square. Compulsory Purchase Order (11 houses).
Tenants rehoused and houses demolished.

Nos. 1 to 13 St. James Square. Compulsory Purchase Order (13 houses).
Tenants rehoused and houses demolished.

Nos. 57 to 65 Wellington Road and No. 16 Clarence Street. Compulsory Purchase Order (6 houses).
Tenants rehoused.

Nos. 107, 109 Abinger Road. Clearance Order (2 houses).
Tenants rehoused and houses demolished.

Nos. 11, 13 Shelldale Road. Clearance Order (2 houses).
Tenants rehoused and houses demolished.

Nos. 14 to 22 South Street. Clearance Order (5 houses).
Tenants rehoused.

Nos. 7, 9 West Street. Clearance Order (2 houses).
Tenants rehoused.

Nos. 15, 17, 19 West Street. Clearance Order (3 houses).
Tenants rehoused.

Nos. 1, 3 Chapel Place. Clearance Order (2 houses).
Tenants rehoused.

No. 2 Chapel Place. Individual unfit.
Tenant rehoused. House used as store.

Nos. 1, 2 New England Cottages. Individual unfit houses.
Used as store. Undertaking not to relet.

Nos. 1 to 33 East Street
Nos. 4 to 20 East Street } 33 houses.
Nos. 2 to 18 East Street Place
Public Enquiry held.

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	1	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

	* New Cases				Deaths				Other Removals				Cases on Register				Totals
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	2	7
20—25	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	4	—	1	13
25—35	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	11	7	3	—	21
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	16	17	2	—	35
45—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	21	6	—	3	30
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4	—	—	8
Totals	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	4	2	2	63	40	9	6	118

* These figures include " Inward Transfers"

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	29
Whooping Cough	3
Poliomyelitis	10
Measles	20
Dysentery	1
Pneumonia	11
Erysipelas	3
Food Poisoning	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.
1956.

	AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).			
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	Total
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents (during the year) ..	45	54	84	183
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (*i.e.*, subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ..	—	3	398	401
C. Total number of children who have received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough course of injections during the year	44	42	22	108
D. Number of children who received the triple vaccine (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) during the year ..	1	—	6	7

There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

VACCINATION ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during Period.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 and over	Total
Number Vaccinated	91	4	4	18	5	122
Number Re-Vaccinated ..	—	—	1	23	30	54